

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (Currently amended) A method of producing a high
2 porous porosity metallic molded body with the following process
3 steps:

4 mixing a metal powder used as the starting material ~~is~~
5 mixed with a particulate place holder with a particle size of
6 50 μ m to 2 mm and selected from the group which consists of
7 carbamide, biuret, ammonium carbonate and ammonium bicarbonate to
8 form a mixture,

9 pressing from the mixture consisting essentially of said
10 metal powder and said particulate place holder a green body with a
11 compressive strength sufficient to allow machining thereof,

12 subjecting the green body ~~is subjected~~ to a conventional
13 mechanical machining,

14 removing the place holder material ~~is removed~~ thermally
15 from the green body in air or under vacuum or under a protective
16 gas to produce a machined green body with open porosity, and

17 sintering the green body ~~is sintered~~ to form the molded
18 body while maintaining the open porosity.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

1 3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1,
2 in which the place holder is removed at a temperature below 300°C ,
3 ~~especially below 105°C and especially advantageously below 70°C.~~

1 4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, in which stainless steel 1.4404 (316L) or titanium is used as
3 the metallic starting powder.

1 5. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, in which the molded body is produced by sawing, boring, turning,
3 milling or grinding in the green state to close to its final
4 contour.

1 6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, in which the sintering is carried out in a bed of ceramic balls.

1 7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, in which the molded body following sintering is trovalized or
3 ground smooth.

8. (New) The method according to claim 3 wherein the place holder is removed at a temperature below 105°C.

9. (New) The method according to claim 8 in which the place holder is removed at a temperature below 70°C.